

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

A NEW NAME FOR *SOREX MACRURUS* BATCHELDER.

In 1896 I described in these Proceedings (Vol. X, pp. 133-134, December 8, 1896) a new species of shrew from the Adirondack Mountains, New York, giving it the name of *Sorex macrurus*. Through the kindness of Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., I recently have learned that this use of the name is invalidated, owing to the fact that it was applied in 1822 by J. G. C. Lehmann (Observationes Zoologicae praesertim in Faunam Hamburgensem. Pugillus Primus.) to the common European water shrew, *Neomys fodiens* (Schreber). Lehmann's type locality was Sachsenwald, near Friedrichsruh, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

It therefore becomes necessary to give another name to the Adirondack shrew, and I propose to call it *Sorex dispar*.

—Charles Foster Batchelder.

NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE WHALE SHARK, *RHINODON TYPICUS*, IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

In the issue of the *Philippine Free Press* for September 10, 1910, there is published a photograph, with brief description, of a marine monster from Negros Occidental. The photograph was submitted in competition and received the prize for the current week. The newspaper states that two other photographs of the same subject were sent in by other competitors, but the one selected was the best. Throughout the article the animal is referred to as a whale, but the photograph clearly indicates a whale shark, *Rhinodon typicus*.

The creature was 6 meters long, and was caught in a fish trap near Bacolod, Island of Negros, on September 4, 1910.

This species, so far as known, has not heretofore been reported from the Philippine Archipelago, although its distribution is world-wide.* Outside of the Indian Seas it occurs only as a rare straggler. There have been several records from the Dutch East Indies, so that the capture of a specimen in the Philippines is not unexpected although none the less interesting.

—Hugh M. Smith.

* See Bean's "The History of the Whale Shark," Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. XLVIII, 1905.